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BOOK REVIEWS.

THE JUDICIARY AND THE PEOPLE. By Frederick N. Judson, St. Louis, Mo. Yale University Press, New Haven; and Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press, London, England, 1913. pp. 270.

This book is made up of the William L. Storrs lectures delivered by Mr. JUDSON for the law school of Yale University in 1913. The author has treated of a number of questions relating to the administration of law which have been before the country during the last few years. Chief among these are the matters of the independence of the judiciary, the separation of the powers of government, judicial review of legislation, and modern administrative commissions. Incidentally the subjects of recall of judges and recall of judicial decisions are considered. While the book does not profess to be one of research it is an original, well-balanced and suggestive treatment of the topics covered. In tone it is dispassionate and judicial. The author freely concedes that there are serious defects in our law and its administration but he finds weighty reasons in history and in logic for rejecting some of the nostrums already referred to offered for curing these ills. Like most other thoughtful lawyers, Mr. JUDSON believes that the recall of judges (at least if we are to retain our present short judicial terms), and the recall of judicial decisions would utterly fail to have the effect desired and would produce disastrous and fundamental changes in our political institutions. Mr. JUDSON also thinks that there may be detected perhaps a tendency to swing away from the short elective terms of judges and to return to appointment. He states that in 1789 no state judges were elected, whereas now state judges are elected in all but five states. But he points out that Mississippi, which was among the first of the states to adopt election as the mode of filling the bench, has abandoned it for appointment. See page 160.

Reference is made by the author to many of the best recent scholarly contributions to this general subject and the researches and views of the best recent writers have entered into his judgment. The proof-reading has not been done as carefully as it might have been but this has caused but slight defects in a very sound little book.

H. M. B.

THE LAW OF DECEDENTS' ESTATES, INCLUDING WILLS. An abridgment for the use of law students of J. G. Woerner's treatise on the American Law of Administration. Edited by William F. Woerner and F. A. Wislizenus, instructors in the law department of St. Louis and Washington Universities. Little, Brown & Co., Boston, 1913. pp. xxxvi. 527.

Judge WOERNER's original treatise on the American Law of Administration was perhaps the greatest contribution to the American law of decedents' estates, and has been used by practitioners and students more than any other single work on the subject. The present book is an abridgment of this work for use in law schools, and the editors, who have taught the subject in their